Purpos
The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for teachers and information for students and their parents.

Rationale
Homework should be educationally beneficial for students. Homework should meet the negotiated needs and expectations of students, teachers, parents and caregivers. Homework should:

- be a valuable part of learning
- allow for practice, extension and consolidation of classroom learning
- provide opportunities for students in planning and organising time
- develop a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- establish habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- strengthen home-school links
- reaffirm the role of parents as partners in education
- provide parents with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the educational progress of their children
- challenge and extend gifted and talented children and provide appropriate remedial activities for students with learning difficulties

Key Policy Statements
Homework is most beneficial when:

- it is set on a regular basis, is well co-ordinated and establishes a routine of home study
- it is marked promptly and accurately
- feedback and follow-up are provided to students
- teachers communicate their expectations and set suitable amounts of homework at an appropriate age, stage and capability level of the students
- it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- students take responsibility for their homework
- it is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the students’ motivation
- it takes into account students’ home responsibilities and activities such as clubs, sport and recreation
- parents are involved in the evaluation of homework via surveys.

Principals’ Responsibilities
The principal will:

- with all stakeholders, develop and implement a homework policy and supporting procedures for the school
- ensure students, parents and staff are aware of the school’s homework policy and procedures
TEACHERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers will:
- provide quality homework activities relevant to classwork and in accordance with this policy
- set relevant homework that is appropriate to the ability of each student
- ensure the students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed
- give students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account competing obligations
- mark homework promptly, maintaining records and providing feedback to students and parents
- alert parents of any problems concerning their child’s homework and suggest strategies to assist

STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will
- ensure that they allocate sufficient time to complete homework within set timeframe
- show their homework to their parents
- seek assistance from teachers of parents when difficulties arise

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents will form a stronger learning partnership with the school when they:
- take an interest in homework by ensuring a time and place is set aside, encouraging and supporting their child to complete their homework
- assist teachers by being aware of the homework set, monitoring homework and signing completed work if requested
- communicate any concerns to teachers about the nature of homework or other activities that may need to be taken into consideration when setting homework.

References
Homework Policy, Department of Education and Training, 2000

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